

Boston

ACT OF INCORPORATION,

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

Boston Society of Natural History.

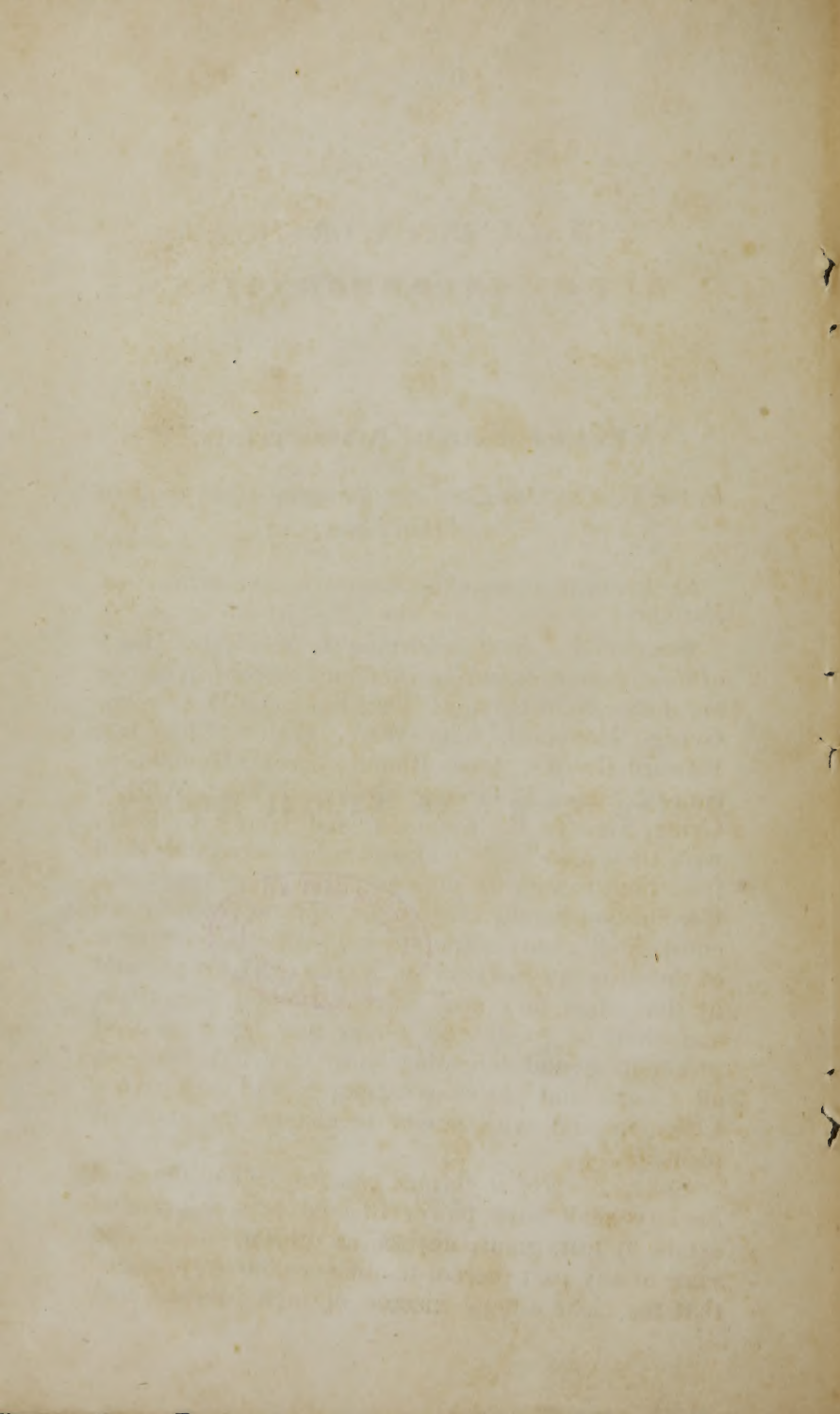
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BOSTON.

JOHN H. EASTBURN....PRINTER.

1832.



ACT OF INCORPORATION.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*In the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and thirty-one.*

AN ACT to incorporate the BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same,* That Benjamin D. Greene, George Hayward, John Ware, Walter Channing, Edward Brooks, Amos Binney, jr., D. Humphreys Storer, Simon E. Greene, Joshua B. Flint, William Grigg, George B. Emerson, and Henry Codman, with their associates, and such other persons as shall from time to time be duly admitted Members of the Corporation hereby created, be, and they hereby are constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name of the BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, and by that name they shall have perpetual succession, and shall be capable of suing and being sued, of prosecuting and defending unto final judgment, in all Courts and places whatsoever, and may have a Common Seal, with power to change the same at pleasure.

SECT. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the said Society shall have power to hold real or personal estate by gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, and the same or any part thereof to alien or convey, provided that the clear annual income of such personal and

real estate, shall not exceed the sum of three thousand dollars, nor be applied to any other purposes than the encouragement and promotion of the science of Natural History.

SECT. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That said Society shall have power to elect a President and all other necessary officers; to make rules and by-laws for the election and government of its members, for the management of its property, for collecting annual contributions from its members, for regulating the times and places of meeting, for expelling such members as refuse to comply with the by-laws or regulations, and for the managing of the affairs of the Society, provided such rules and by-laws be not repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth, or of the United States.

SECT. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That the persons herein before named, or any three of them, shall have power to call the first meeting of the members of said Society in such manner as they may think proper.

SECT. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That this Act may be altered, amended, or repealed at the pleasure of the Legislature.

In House of Representatives, February 23, 1831, passed to be enacted.

WM. B. CALHOUN, *Speaker.*

In Senate, February 24, 1831, passed to be enacted.

SAM'L LATHROP, *President.*

FEBRUARY 25, 1831.

Approved,

LEVI LINCOLN.

A Copy of the Original Act,

Attest,

EDWARD D. BANGS,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The Society shall be called the BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY.

ARTICLE II.

It shall consist of Members, Corresponding Members, and Patrons. Members, persons residing in Boston, or its immediate vicinity; Corresponding Members, persons residing at a distance from the city; and Patrons, persons who shall contribute at one time to the funds of the Society, the sum of fifty dollars.

ARTICLE III.

Members and Corresponding Members shall be chosen by ballot, after having been nominated at a meeting previous to that, on which the ballot is taken: the affirmative votes of three-fourths of the members present shall be necessary to a choice.

ARTICLE IV.

Members only, shall be entitled to vote, to hold office, or to transact business: Corresponding Members and Patrons, may attend the meetings, and take part in the scientific discussions of the Society.

ARTICLE V.

The officers of the Society, shall be a President; two Vice Presidents, first and second; a Corres-

ponding Secretary ; a Recording Secretary and Clerk ; a Treasurer ; a Librarian ; and eight Curators—who, together, shall form a Board, for the management of the concerns of the institution, and be called the Council.

ARTICLE VI.

Officers shall be chosen by ballot, and a majority of votes shall be sufficient for a choice.

ARTICLE VII.

By-laws for the more particular regulation of the Society, shall from time to time be made.

ARTICLE VIII.

This Constitution may be altered or amended in any of the preceding articles, by a vote to that effect, of three-fourths of the members ; but the article which immediately follows this, shall be unalterable.

ARTICLE IX.

The consent of every member shall be necessary to a dissolution of the Society. In case of a dissolution, the property of the Society shall not be distributed among the members, but donors may claim and receive such donations as they have made to the museum, and the remainder shall be given to some public Institution, on such conditions as may then be agreed on ; and the faithful performance of such conditions, shall be secured by bonds with sufficient penalties for the non-fulfilment thereof.

BY-LAWS.

SECTION I.

OF MEMBERS.

ART. 1. Every person on becoming a member of this Society, shall subscribe an obligation, promising to conform to the Constitution and By-laws thereof, and shall pay into the Treasury, an initiation fee of five dollars.

ART. 2. Corresponding members shall not be required to pay an initiation fee, or other contribution.

ART. 3. Persons who have been unsuccessful candidates for admission, shall not be again proposed as members until after one year.

ART. 4. Any member may withdraw from the Society, by giving written notice of his intention, and paying all arrearages due from him.

ART. 5. Members may be expelled from the Society, by a vote of three-fourths of the members present, at a meeting specially called for that purpose, by a notice given at least one month previous.

SECTION II.

OF OFFICERS, AND THEIR DUTIES.

ART. 1. The President shall preside at meetings of the Society and of the Council; shall preserve order, regulate debates, and announce donations and other interesting information.

ART. 2. The Vice President, shall perform the duties of President, in his absence.

ART. 3. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, and keep a record thereof; acknowledge all donations; notify corresponding members of their election, and receive and read to the Society all communications on scientific subjects which may be addressed to him.

ART. 4. The Recording Secretary and Clerk, shall take and preserve correct minutes of the proceedings of the Society and Council, in a book to be kept for that purpose; shall have charge of the papers and documents belonging to the Society, and of their common seal; shall notify members of their election, and committees of their appointment, and shall call meetings when directed by the President.

ART. 5. The Treasurer shall have charge of all moneys and other property of the Society, except their Library and Museum; shall collect all fees and assessments, and receive any donations in money which may be made to it; shall pay all accounts against the Society, when the same are approved by a vote of the Council; shall keep a correct account of all receipts and expenditures in a book belonging to the Society, and shall at each annual meeting, and at other times when required by the Council, make a detailed report of the same.

ART. 6. The Librarian shall have control of the books belonging to the Society, or deposited for their use; he shall make a correct catalogue of them, and keep a record of such as are taken from the Library by the members; shall permit the use of the Library to members and others, under such regulations as

may from time to time be adopted, and shall annually report the condition of the Library.

ART. 7. The Curators shall be entrusted with the care of the Museum. They shall be separately charged, as may be agreed on among themselves, with the safe-keeping and arrangement of the several departments of which it may be composed. The Curators having charge of any division of the collection, shall keep the keys thereof : shall arrange the specimens after some approved system, and so far as is practicable, label them with the names they bear, in such system. They shall keep a correct catalogue of the articles in their care, and shall be alone authorized to select duplicate specimens from the Cabinets, and effect exchanges. In case the duties of the Curators shall be so far subdivided that one Curator shall have sole charge of a department, he may select from among the members of the Society a person to assist him in arranging and labelling the specimens. The Curators shall, at the annual meeting, make a written report to the Society, concerning the Museum ; the state of the different collections, the additions made during the year, and the deficiencies which exist.

ART. 8. The Council shall provide suitable rooms for the meetings of the Society, for lectures, and for the Museum : they shall select the subjects of the lectures, regulate the order in which they shall be given, and determine on what terms the public may be admitted to them : appoint Lecturers, and fix their compensations : authorize the expenditure of money for the increase of the library and museum, and designate the books which shall be purchased : and do any other acts not inconsistent with the Consti-

tution and By-laws, which they may think necessary to the continuation and success of the Society.

SECTION III.

OF ASSESSMENTS.

ART. 1. Every member shall be subject to an annual assessment of three dollars, payable to the Treasurer on the first day of October.

ART. 2. Any member who shall pay into the Treasury at one time, the sum of thirty dollars, shall be exempt from the annual assessments.

SECTION IV.

OF THE LIBRARY.

ART. 1. The Library shall consist of works on Natural History, and other subjects connected therewith.

ART. 2. The selection of Books to be purchased for the Library, shall be made by the Council; but for the present, such books only shall be purchased, as are not found in other public Libraries in the City of Boston.

ART. 3. Members may deposit books in the Library for the use of the Society; but such books shall not be taken from the Library-room, without the consent of the owners.

ART. 4. The Society shall be responsible for the safe-keeping and careful usage of books deposited, and shall recompense the owners for any damage which may occur to them, while in the Society's keeping.

ART. 5. Books owned by the Society may be taken from the Library by members, upon signing a

receipt for the same, and promising to make good any damage which may be sustained when in their possession, and to replace the same if lost.

ART. 6. The Council may prohibit valuable and rare books from circulation.

ART. 7. Books shall not be kept from the Library more than one calendar month by the same person.

ART. 8. The Council may appoint particular days for taking books from the Library.

ART. 9. The Council may extend the use of the Library to other persons than members.

SECTION V.

OF THE MUSEUM.

ART. 1. The Museum shall consist of collections in the different departments of Natural History.

ART. 2. All specimens sent to the Museum shall be considered the property of the Society, unless the owner shall make known in writing his wish to retain the privilege of withdrawing them.

ART. 3. When a member deposits in the Museum a sufficient number of articles to fill an entire case, a key of the case shall be at all times at his command.

ART. 4. The names of donors, with the articles given, shall in every instance be recorded in a book kept for that purpose, by the Curators of each department.

ART. 5. No specimens shall be removed from the Museum, without the leave of the Council.

ART. 6. Members, corresponding members, and patrons shall have access to the Museum, at all times, subject to the regulations of the Council.

ART. 7. Members or other persons desirous of

examining or describing specimens, or taking them from the cases, for the purpose of study, must apply to the Curators, who have charge of them.

ART. 8. At the meeting in October, a committee of three members shall be appointed, who shall report at the next meeting on the state of the Cabinet and Library.

SECTION VII.

OF LECTURES.

ART. 1. Public lectures shall be annually given under the auspices of the Society, on the several branches of Natural History.

ART. 2. The order in which the lectures shall follow each other, shall be fixed by the Council.

ART. 3. Members of the Society shall have free admission to the lectures; other persons shall be admitted on such terms as the Council shall prescribe.

ART. 4. The monies received for admission to the Lectures, shall go to pay the compensation of Lecturers and other expenses; the balance, if any, shall be paid into the Treasury of the Society.

SECTION VII.

OF MEETINGS.

ART. 1. A meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday in May annually, for the choice of officers and other general purposes. At this meeting, reports shall be made, by the Treasurer, on the state of the funds; by the Librarian on the condition of the Library; and by the Curators, on the condition of the Museum.

ART. 2. Stated meetings of the Society, shall be held on the first Wednesday of every month.

ART. 3. Six members shall form a quorum for business.

ART. 4. Members will be expected to communicate at the meetings of the Society, such interesting information as may come into their possession respecting Natural History in general, and particularly any new facts respecting that of our own country.

ART. 5. Written communications on subjects connected with Natural History, may be made by the members ; the subjects, and time of reading, shall be chosen by themselves ; but after the same have been read, the opinions and facts therein contained, shall be open to remark by other members.

ART. 6. The order of proceeding at meetings, shall be as follows, to wit :

1. Record of preceding meeting read.
2. Donations announced.
3. Written communications read.
4. Verbal communications made.
5. Business called up by special resolutions.
6. Candidates for membership proposed.
7. Adjournment.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY,

ELECTED MAY, 1832.

PRESIDENT,

BENJAMIN D. GREENE.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

JOHN WARE | FRANCIS C. GRAY.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,

GAMALIEL BRADFORD.

RECORDING SECRETARY,

D. HUMPHREYS STORER.

TREASURER,

AMOS BINNEY, Jr.

LIBRARIAN,

CHARLES AMORY.

CURATORS,

GEORGE B. EMERSON,
JOSEPH W. McKEAN,
FRANCIS ALGER,
AUGUSTUS A. GOULD,

WINSLOW LEWIS, Jr.
WILLIAM B. FOWLE,
CLEMENT DURGIN,
GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr.

CATALOGUE OF MEMBERS.

Adams, Zabdiel B.
Adams, Edwin
Alger, Francis
Amory, Charles
Andrews, William T.
Bailey, Ebenezer
Barrett, Samuel
Bass, Seth
Bates, Charles J.
Binney, Amos Jr.
Binney, Charles J. F.
Bird, John
Blake, Samuel P.
Bond, George
Bowdoin, James
Bradford, Gamaliel
Brooks, Edward
Brooks, William G.
Brown, James
Brown, Nathaniel,
Browne, Daniel I.
Cabot, Samuel
Channing, Walter
Choate, Charles,
Clark, Elijah P.
Codman, Henry
Cooke, Joseph P.
Coolidge, Joseph Jr.
Davis, John
Dearborn, H. A. S.

Dixwell, Epes S.
Durgin, Clement
Dyer, Ezra C.
Dyer, Henry
Emerson, George B.
Emmons, Robert L.
Fisher, John D.
Flagg, Josiah F.
Flint, John
Flint, Joshua B.
Fowle, William B.
Gay, Martin
Goodrich, S. G.
Gould, Augustus A.
Gray, Francis C.
Gray, John H.
Gray, Thomas Jr.
Greene, Benjamin D.
Greene, Charles G.
Greene, J. S. Copley
Greene, Simon E.
Greenwood, F. W. P.
Grigg, William
Hale, Enoch Jr.
Hales, William
Harris, Thaddeus W.
Harwood, Daniel
Hayden, John C.
Hayward, George
Hayward, Joshua H

Hendee, Charles J.
 Henshaw, David
 Holmes, O. Wendal
 Homans, John
 Houghton, Nestor
 Howard, John C.
 Hubbard, Henry B.
 Huggefords, Henry H.
 Ingalls, William
 Jackson, James Jr.
 Jackson, John B. S.
 Jarvis, Nathan
 Jeffries, John
 Joy, Joseph
 Kettell, Samuel
 Leach, E. W.
 Leverett, F. P.
 Lewis, Winslow Jr.
 McKean, Joseph W.
 Miles, Solomon P.
 Nuttall, Thomas
 Odiorne, James C.
 Osgood, David
 Otis, George W. Jr.
 Palmer, Ezra
 Park, Thomas B.
 Parkman, George
 Parsons, Theophilus
 Perkins, J. H.
 Perry, Marshall S.
 Pierce, Henry
 Power, Thomas

Randall, John
 Reed, Sampson
 Reynolds, Edward
 Robinson, Horatio
 Rogers, Henry B.
 Shattuck, George C.
 Sheafe, Henry
 Sherwin, Thomas
 Shurtleff, Samuel A.
 Simpson, Paul
 Smith, Jerome V. C.
 Sparhawk, Thomas
 Stevenson, J. Greely
 Storer, D. Humphreys
 Strong, Woodbridge
 Sullivan, Richard
 Sumner, Frederick A.
 Thomas, Alexander
 Walter, Lynde M.
 Ware, John
 Warren, Edward
 Warren, J. Mason
 Webster, John W.
 Weston, Alden B.
 Whittemore, Thomas J.
 Wigglesworth, Samuel

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Benjamin Lincoln,
Burlington, Vt.
 Isaac Pray,
Eastport, Me.